MOON KNIGHT®

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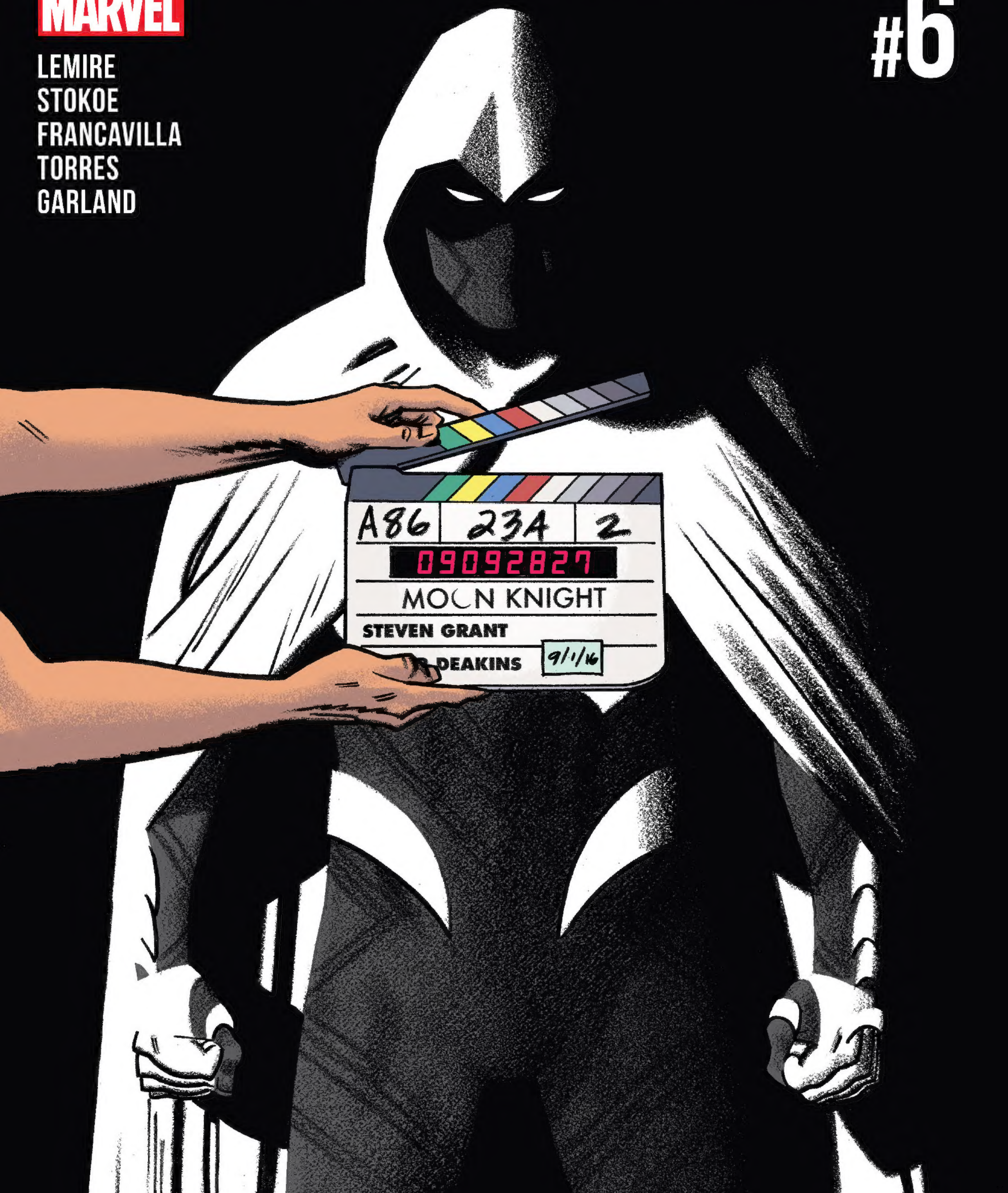
#6



MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. BUT **MOON KNIGHT** WAS JUST ONE OF A FEW IDENTITIES MARC USED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO TRAVEL BY NIGHT: CABBIE **JAKE LOCKLEY** KEPT HIS EAR TO THE GROUND, AND FINANCIER AND FILM PRODUCER **STEVEN GRANT** FUNDED THE OPERATION. EVENTUALLY, MARC WENT COMPLETELY INSANE AND DISAPPEARED. HE RETURNED TO CONTINUE HIS FIGHT, IN SPITE OF HIS TENUOUS GRIP ON REALITY.

MOON KNIGHT

INCARNATIONS: PART 1 OF 4

KHONSHU SENT MARC AND HIS ALLIES ON A HARROWING QUEST DESIGNED TO WEAR AWAY THE LAST OF MARC'S MIND. THIS WOULD FREE HIS BODY FOR KHONSHU TO INHABIT AND USE TO ENTER OUR WORLD. BUT MARC RESISTED, DESTROYING HIMSELF RATHER THAN ALLOWING KHONSHU TO DOMINATE THE EARTH.

THEN STEVEN GRANT WOKE UP IN HIS MANHATTAN APARTMENT.

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WHERE IS SHE, PHARAOH?!

WHY SHOULD I TELL THE LAPDOG OF KHONSHU ANYTHING?!

NO!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK TO EGYPT, MOON KNIGHT!

CUT!!!

WE HAVE A #$%^ BOOM IN THE SHOT *AGAIN!*

SORRY!

JEEZ! YOU KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE TO SIT IN THE DAMN EFFECTS ROOM TO GET THESE SQUIBS LOADED UP!

MARC, MARC...JUST CALM DOWN. WE CAN FIX IT IN POST.

I AM *NOT* COMING BACK ON SET UNTIL YOU *FIRE THAT MORON!*

WELL, THERE GOES SPECTOR WITH ANOTHER TANTRUM. RIGHT ON CUE.

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH FOR TODAY. YOU WANNA GET OUT OF HERE?

EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS FILM IS A DISASTER.

GEE, THANKS.

YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN YOU, MARLENE. YOUR PERFORMANCE AS STAINED GLASS SCARLET IS THE ONLY THING WE HAVE GOING FOR US.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET MARVEL TALK ME INTO PRODUCING THIS MESS. I MEAN, MOON KNIGHT IS A THIRD-RATE CHARACTER AT BEST. WHAT WAS I THINKING?

YOU WERE THINKING THIS COULD BE SOMETHING SPECIAL. REMEMBER ALL THE STUFF YOU TOLD ME WHEN YOU HIRED ME?

THAT WE COULD USE THE SUPER HERO GENRE TO EXPLORE SOME ***REAL*** THEMES...IDENTITY, MENTAL ILLNESS. YOU HAD A ***VISION*** FOR THIS, STEVEN.

THEN WHY THE HELL DID I LET THE STUDIO TALK ME INTO HIRING MARC SPECTOR AS OUR LEAD? AND THIS DIRECTOR! HE'S TURNING THE DAMN THING INTO A CLICHÉD MESS. ALL THE SUBTLETY IS GONE.

IT'S JUST ANOTHER SUPER HERO MOVIE NOW. AND PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF SUPER HERO MOVIES.

NO, THEY'RE NOT. DON'T BUY THAT ***SUPER HERO FATIGUE*** CRAP ONLINE. EVEN IF IT DOESN'T DO GREAT HERE, IT WILL BE HUGE OVERSEAS. JUST LOOK AT *ANT-MAN*.

YOU CAN'T LET MARC SPECTOR'S TANTRUMS AND THAT IDIOT DIRECTOR RUIN THAT! YOU NEED TO TAKE CONTROL, STEVEN. IT'S LIKE I SAID LAST NIGHT, ***YOU*** SHOULD TAKE OVER AND DIRECT IT.

STEVEN?

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW.

NO, IT'S NOT. YOU'RE STEVEN GRANT. YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PRODUCERS IN HOLLYWOOD. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

WHERE'S MY DRIVER?

→SIGH← I DON'T KNOW. LET'S JUST GET A CAB AND GO HOME. I HAVE A HEADACHE.

YOU JUST NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR A BIT BEFORE TONIGHT.

UGH, DO WE HAVE TO GO TO THIS THING?

YES, WE HAVE TO GO. THIS FUNDRAISER FOR MERCY HOSPITAL IS GOING TO GO A LONG WAY IN MESSAGING THE FILM AS BEING PRO-MENTAL HEALTH. THIS IS THE KIND OF STUFF WE CAN TALK ABOUT ON THE PRESS JUNKET.

FINE. BUT WE AREN'T STAYING LONG.

GH45T

MERCY HOSPITAL? YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE. TRUST ME.

EXCUSE ME?

I SAID YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE. THAT'S A NASTY NEIGHBORHOOD FOR FOLKS LIKE YOU.

STEVEN GRANT IS *TOO SOFT* FOR WHAT COMES NEXT...

...SO I LEAVE HIM BACK AT THE MANSION AND HIT THE STREETS AS JAKE LOCKLEY.

I CAN SMELL THE SCUM OOZING OUT OF EVERY ALLEYWAY.

SOMETHING BAD IS CREEPING OUT... LOOMING OVER THE CITY. AN EVIL ONLY I CAN SEE.

I'M NOT DELUSIONAL. I KNOW I'M ONLY ONE MAN. I KNOW I CAN'T TAKE IT ALL ON MYSELF... AT LEAST NOT AS JAKE LOCKLEY.

OFF DUTY TAXI OFF DUTY

JAKE LOCKLEY, AS I LIVE AND BREATHE. DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHY'S THAT, CRAWLEY?

WHAT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

REMEMBER WHAT?

WHY, THE DEVIOUS AND BEGUILING EVENTS THAT HAPPENED JUST BELOW OUR FEET NOT TWO DAYS AGO!

...

LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE, CRAWLEY.

OKAY. EXPLAIN, CRAWLEY. WHAT HAPPENED TWO NIGHTS AGO?

WHY, WE ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL, OF COURSE.

HOSPITAL?

MERCY HOSPITAL FOR THE MENTALLY ILL. YOU, FRENCHIE, MARLENE, GENA, AND I ESCAPED THROUGH THE SUBWAYS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE ON ABOUT.

OH, DEAR. IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED, THEN. ARE YOU REALLY SAYING YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT? THE MUMMIES, ANUBIS?

ANUBIS?!

YES, JAKE. ANUBIS--ANUBIS TOOK MY SOUL. I GAVE IT UP SO YOU COULD ESCAPE.

BUT NOW I SEE YOU FAILED. YOU'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU STARTED, AREN'T YOU? AND MY SOUL...IT'S GONE NOW. I--I'M LOST.

YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, CRAWLEY! I WAS JUST AT GENA'S DINER AN HOUR AGO. SHE'S FINE.

AND I'VE NEVER BEEN IN ANY HOSPITAL!

OH, JAKE, MY BOY...DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL *RIGHT NOW.*

YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, OLD MAN.

JUST BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT TRUE, MARC.

MY NAME IS *JAKE!*

C-CRAWLEY?!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. JAKE LOCKLEY HAS TAKEN ME AS FAR AS HE CAN TONIGHT...

1

...IT'S TIME FOR *MOON KNIGHT!*

WHAT IS THIS?!

WHAT'S WRONG, STEVEN?

I--I WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE! I WAS IN A CAB AND THERE WAS THIS MAN, THIS OLD MAN WITH WHITE HAIR, AND HE TOLD ME--

HE TOLD ME I WAS IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE SCARING ME, STEVEN.

I'M SCARING *MYSELF*, MARLENE!

OKAY, OKAY. JUST CALM DOWN, BABY. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. YOU PROBABLY HAD AN ANXIETY DREAM ABOUT TONIGHT.

HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING YOUR MEDS?

MY MEDS?

YES. HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING UP WITH ALL OF THEM? YOU REMEMBER LAST TIME YOU WENT OFF, HOW YOU GOT.

I--I DON'T REMEMBER. MAYBE I FORGOT.

YOU NEED TO KEEP THEM UP, STEVEN, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE FEELING OKAY.

YOU'LL BE FINE. JUST TAKE THEM NOW AND THEN GET DRESSED OR WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.

OKAY.

MARLENE.

YES?

THANK YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.

NEITHER DO I. NOW, GET DRESSED...

"...WE'VE GOT A DATE AT A MENTAL HOSPITAL."

WANT ONE OF THESE MUSHROOM THINGS, SIR?

HUH?

I SAID, DO YOU WANT AN HORS D'OEUVRE, SIR?

COURSE HE DOES, BOBBY. QUIT BUGGING THE MAN AND HOOK HIM UP.

NO, THANK YOU.

SAY, BILLY, DON'T WE KNOW HIM?

YOU KNOW, BOBBY, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. WE DO KNOW YOU, DON'T WE?

I DON'T THINK SO.

NO. WE DEFINITELY KNOW YOU, MAN. YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?

NO. NOW, GET BACK TO WORK.

GEEZ. TALK ABOUT HIGH-STRUNG, BOBBY.

THESE RICH FOLK ARE ALL LIKE THAT, BILLY.

EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO TALK TO MARLENE FOR JUST A MINUTE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

MARLENE, WHO THE HELL'S IDEA WAS IT TO THROW THE PARTY IN A DAMNED MENTAL INSTITUTION?!

ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS? IT WAS YOUR IDEA, STEVEN.

YOU WANTED TO HOLD THE FUNDRAISER RIGHT IN THE HOSPITAL TO "BREAK DOWN ALL THE STIGMA ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS," REMEMBER? YOUR WORDS. YOU WANTED TO SUPPORT THIS PLACE BECAUSE...

BECAUSE *WHAT?*

BECAUSE YOU USED TO BE A PATIENT HERE.

I--MARLENE, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS--

HEY, STEVE-O, SORRY ABOUT THAT MESS UP TODAY ON SET. WE GOT IT ALL SMOOTHED OVER. WE'LL BE DONE WITH THIS SCENE TOMORROW, MAN.

NO. YOU WON'T.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MAN?

YOU'RE FIRED, NICK. I'M TAKING OVER.

THAT IS $%#&, MAN! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM, MAN?! I WON *FOUR* VMAS LAST YEAR!

I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT. THIS IS *MY* PICTURE.

STEVEN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID IT! I'M SO *PROUD* OF YOU.

I--I JUST NEED TO BE ALONE FOR A MINUTE, MARLENE. I'M NOT FEELING WELL. I NEED SOME AIR.

OKAY. DON'T YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU, THOUGH, MARC?

WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU CALLED ME MARC. WHY DID YOU CALL ME THAT?

I SAID *STEVEN*... DIDN'T I?

NO. YOU DIDN'T.

I'VE BEEN SPENDING SO MUCH TIME RUNNING LINES WITH SPECTOR. IT'S NOTHING. JUST A SLIP.

I JUST...

"...I JUST NEED TO BE ALONE."

WHA--?!

HANGAR 12

FRENCHIE?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MARC, THEY'RE COMING! SUIT UP, WE NEED TO LAUNCH *NOW!*

WHO'S COMING?

ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?

NOT REALLY. I THINK I HAD A BAD DREAM OR SOMETHING.

WELL, SNAP OUT OF IT.

I'M FINE. MISSION CONTROL, THIS IS ***MOON KNIGHT ONE*** REQUESTING LAUNCH CLEARANCE!

MOON KNIGHT ONE, YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAUNCH!

THRUSTERS ENGAGED!

GOOD HUNTING, MK1.

WEAPONS FREE AND EYES TO THE SKY, MARC...

...WE HAVE INCOMING!

GENERAL LUPINAR, THE MOON KNIGHTS ARE LAUNCHING.

LET THEM COME. WE ARE READY. BY DAWN, THE SPACE WOLVES WILL TAKE THE MOON!

TO BE CONTINUED...

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to
mheroes@marvel.com and
mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Jeff Lemire's innovations to this "Moon Knight Madness" point of view are quite impressive. Aside from being nothing short of stupendous, sheer genius, the art is mind-bogglingly spectacular. Time for a confession though. I have to be brutally honest. This is the first time I have ever picked up a MOON KNIGHT issue. After finishing issue #2, I had to go back and read a quick history synopsis of Marc Spector. Employees at local comic shops in my area must have grown tired of me digging through back issues and having them order graphic novels of collected issues of MOON KNIGHT all because of two issues.

What makes this comic story so believable, so astonishing, is that it can actually be happening in our everyday world and no one would really believe it. Now, as a reader, I ask myself, does my heart have some sort of humanity in it so I can continue to believe Marc Spector's point of view? Or do I take the regular, logical point of view that my brain is telling me to take, and look at the story from the point of view of the doctors of the asylum, as they are trying to help out an individual who suffers from some sort of psychosis, probably caused by post-traumatic stress disorder from all his years in the military?

This comic makes me wonder and think about the everyday transient people I have encountered wandering through the city, who may have seemed crazy because they were yelling or talking at some unseen entity. A true mind screw. Hmm…

This story composition is strange and unexpected, with a fusion of intelligence that makes it a groundbreaking *Twilight Zone* tale for a whole new generation of MOON KNIGHT fans who may arise from this series. Thank you for giving me something so refreshing and so believable to read. I am giving in to this "Moon Knight Madness."

Gabriel Cruz, A.K.A. Cruzzer
Glendale, AZ

Gabriel, so glad we've gotten into your head! Thank you for all your kind words! Lots more madness to come!

Moon Knight is awesome, and so is this current series. I loved the mummies. They added a little horror element, which is hard to come by in comics these days. I'd love to see more horror in MOON KNIGHT.

Thanks!
Adam Jones

You're talking my language, Mr. Jones. I am a HUGE horror nut, so I am thrilled to have staked out a little piece of horror in the Marvel landscape.

LOVE THE MOON KNIGHT SERIES, first time I'm reading him.

Jorge A.

Welcome to the First-Timers Club, Jorge! So happy to have you!

Smallwood. Lemire. Bellaire.

I see those three names together on a book, I am picking it up no matter what. Top it off by making it a Moon Knight book? The series became my most anticipated of the year. I was not let down after the debut, and it continues to earn its place at the top of my "to read" pile.

Cheers,
David

(I included a picture of when I was lucky enough to meet Smallwood earlier this year in Chicago. On the left is the original art to MOON KNIGHT #1's cover he sold me, and on the right is a commission he drew for me.)

David, I am SUPER JEALOUS. I love that first cover so much! Greg's been absolutely knocking it out of the park with the covers on this series. And that commission is STUNNING. Congrats, man, that's super cool! Also, remember when I mentioned how handsome Greg was last letters page? Look at that punim! And apparently MOON KNIGHT also has handsome fans! AND handsome editors! Yes, certainly the editor of this series is VERY HANDSOME…

To the MOON KNIGHT team,

I am a Moon Knight fanatic! All his comics, variants, appearances, you name it. This has been the most compelling and potent arc in so long! I am absolutely in love. The Egyptian elements and the old crew are wonderful! Now, I know some people love the Mr. Knight costume, but I'm dying for Moon Knight to have his traditional type of costume back. To be frank, his weapons of choice need an upgrade, too. The iconic crescent darts and knuckle spikes are keepers, but give Moonie double Khopesh swords (as seen in his arsenal not too long ago), and have him whip those bad boys out from under his cape, sheathed upside-down. *Kung Fu sound effects* His normal costume with a double helping of Khopesh badassery would be unbelievably awesome to see, and how I'm going to cosplay him this year at Chicago Wizard World. FYI, the swords stay sheathed in place by magnets #gravitymakescoolthingshard

Burying you in the sands of Seth
with gratitude,
Brian P.

Gravity DOES make cool things hard, Brian, I'm glad someone finally had the courage to say it. Why you harshin' our rad, gravity??? You are also correct that Khopesh swords are pretty awesome, though sadly we don't have any plans for them in the near future. But hey, you got to see a somewhat more O.G. Moon Knight costume in #4 and #5. That's cool, right? Certainly cooler than gravity, surely!

Dear Lemire, Smallwood, and Bellaire,

This new MOON KNIGHT series keeps getting better and better with every issue! Moon Knight's history with mental instability is interesting, and just when I think it can't get any stranger, it does as Moon Knight encounters Moon Knight?! I can't wait for the finale of this series and I know you guys will put a good twist to this ending. I'm loving MOON KNIGHT and hope to see more from you guys with this character.

Sincerely,
Steve Quintero

Heck yeah, Steve! No plans to stop this crazy train yet!

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

Just want to tell you guys you are doing great. MOON KNIGHT is so awesome, I read chapter 4 of 5 and it's amazing, and I showed it to my friends, too. They love it. I hope the team keeps doing the great work, and hope chapters 5 and 6, or more of them, will be more amazing than everything!

With my love to Moon Knight,
Khonshu, and team,
Kusho Nakamura

Well, we've certainly made it to #6! And there's more on the way! Glad to hear you're loving it, I hope you can get your hands on issues #1-3, they're pretty great as well!

Hello!

I am a huge Moon Knight fan, and I am loving this current run. I like that it is not fully centered on a man versus man conflict (i.e. a feud with Bushman), but rather man versus himself (which also means Khonshu). I love the concept of a world that is more than meets the eye, and it really is confusing (in a good way) to tell what is real and what is a hallucination for Moon Knight. I do miss MK's full costume, but this new style is actually really growing on me. I noticed that we are on 3 of 5 now with "New Egypt." Is there any plan to take it past that? I'll keep buying the issues!

Tommy M.

Here we are on issue #6 and still going, Tommy! I love stories of man versus himself, it feels very personal to me, a person who is frequently his own worst enemy.

Hey all!

I just finished #4 and I have to say I'm loving the book so far.

Specifically, I love how characters and storylines from the past are being blended into a new story. Too many MOON KNIGHT runs try to do drastically new things and lose the spirit of the character...or just rehash the Moench run.

I'm sure you can't really go into this, but what are the chances we'll see the Werewolf by Night appear in these pages? I've always loved the idea of Moon Knight as more of a monster hunter than just a weird Punisher/Batman hybrid and this opening arc seems like Mr. Lemire and company are open to the supernatural.

Either way, I'm totally going to stick around as long as this book goes.

Live Long and Prosper,
Collin Avery
Traverse City, MI

Collin, I LOVE those old Werewolf by Night stories. No plans for him specifically, but how about MOON WEREWOLVES??? If you're into that, boy howdy are you going to LOVE the next issue! Wink wink!

Hi MOON KNIGHT team,

As a HUGE, but somewhat newly minted, Moonie-minion, I absolutely LOVED the 2014 run and was massively disappointed when it was canceled. Suffice it to say I had high hopes for this resurrection, so to speak, yet I remained skeptical until the first issue, when I realized that ol' MK was in very caring and capable hands! I've been thrilled to find that I'm just as engrossed in these recent issues as I was during the last series. I appreciate the freshness of this story as well as how it builds upon the previous one that I liked so much. Much of my comments echo what others have said, but I do really connect with Marc's struggle to distinguish what's real and what's perceived. Not necessarily on the psychosis end of the spectrum, but certainly when it comes to other, less outwardly obvious issues. Also as a pro videographer, I feel as though this volume, much like the last, has strong cinematic qualities; like many fans I have the highest hopes that someday (sooner rather than later), we might get to see our truncheon-tossing protector of night travelers on the small screen at least, if not the IMAX. I feel like the groundwork for any such production is pretty clearly being laid on these here pages. Of course, that could all be in my head, lol. Either way, I am absolutely sure that you guys are doing great work! Thank you.

Justin Stafford
Portland, OR

Justin, thanks for the love and the awesome letter! And while I certainly agree that there is a very cinematic quality to MOON KNIGHT, I love a story that uses its medium: A book that could ONLY be a book (any* House of Leaves *fans?); a movie that would lose its magic if it were anything else (big shout out to Werner Herzog!). Jeff and the whole team are invested in making this as COMIC-y as possible, from Greg's wild page layouts to the awesome transitions our guest artists are doing to our letterer extraordinaire Cory having the falling boom mic overlap the balloon on the first page of this issue (did you catch it? Go back and look!). The format tells the story as much as the art or dialogue. That's some grade-A comic bookin'!

Jeff, Greg, Jordie,

You are blowing my mind. I started reading/collecting MOON KNIGHT about 3 years ago, and I want you to know that this is my favorite story/art/coloring for any comic, EVER. I am intentionally reading through Moon Knight's first appearance as these come out, and I want you to know that you are doing the MK team justice.

Applause to you,
Adam F.
Portland, OR

This means a lot to us, Adam! Are you and Justin buddies? Part of the Portland Urbanite Moon Knight Squad (P.U.M.K.S.)? Squad goals: wearing only white, being totally badass, and eating crescent rolls for breakfast EVERY MORNING.

That's it for this issue, but tune in next month when we go to the moon, Alice! TO THE MOON!

Until then, stay weird!
-Jake T.

ZONE